



St James's
PICCADILLY

The Eucharist for the Second Sunday before Lent

**Sunday 8th February 2026
at 11am**

With a congregation in the church
and live on YouTube

Welcome to St James's Church. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, you are very welcome.

Everyone is warmly invited to receive communion or a blessing so please do come forward at the appropriate time.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

[Tune: Nicaea; Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)]

**Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy,
merciful and mighty,
God in three persons,
blessèd Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before thee,
which wert, and art,
and evermore shall be.**

**Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name
in earth and sky and sea;**

**Holy, holy, holy,
merciful and mighty,
God in three persons,
blessèd Trinity!**

OPENING RESPONSES

The priest says

Grace, mercy and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

And also with you.

The priest welcomes everyone and introduces the service.

**Eternal God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden;
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

The deacon says

Jesus said, 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged.
Forgive, and you will be forgiven'.

KYRIE (Greek Orthodox)

The cantor sings

Kyrie eleison.
(*Lord, have mercy.*)

All sing

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, eleison,
Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe eleison, Christe eleison, eleison,
Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, eleison,
Kyrie eleison.**

THE ABSOLUTION

The priest says

May the God of mercy and truth forgive you and set you free.
May you take God's forgiveness to heart and be at peace.
Amen.

THE GLORIA (Jean Paul Lecôt)

The cantor sings

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
(*Glory to God in the highest!*)

All sing

**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God Creator,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of God,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of Majesty:
receive our prayer.

**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!**

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

**Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect for Racial Justice Sunday

The priest says

Merciful God,
you are righteous and love justice:
stir the hearts of your people that,

rejoicing in our diversity,
the wrongs of the past may be faced honestly,
and, by your grace, may we seek today the peaceable
kingdom of your son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit.

FIRST READING

Romans 8.18-25

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

During the Psalm, the Gospel is carried in procession down the central aisle of the church where it is read among the people. Please turn and face the Gospel as it passes.

PSALM 136 vv.1-9, 23-end

Response: For God's mercy endures for ever.

Please remain standing.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6.25-end

The cantor sings and all repeat

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The cantor sings and all repeat

Glory to you O Lord. **Glory to you O Lord.**

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive

today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The cantor sings and all repeat

Praise to you O Christ. **Praise to you O Christ.**

The cantor sings and all repeat

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

SERMON

The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease

A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.

Please stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Iona Community)

**We believe in God,
maker and sustainer of all life.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,
the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,**

**tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present,
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Led by a member of the congregation.

The deacon says

Let us pray for the world, for the church,
for all in need and for those who have asked for our prayers.

Please kneel or sit.

THE PEACE

The priest says

Christ is our peace.
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old has passed away:
Behold, everything has become new.

The deacon says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The priest says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please share the Peace with your neighbours if you are in the building, and in the YouTube chat box if you are online.

*During the offertory hymn, a collection will be taken.
If you have cash, please fill in the Gift Aid envelopes in the pews with the pens available.*

If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the collection plate, which is set to £5, or the QR code on page 18.

OFFERTORY HYMN

[Tune: Melita; Words: Brian Wren (b.1936)]

**Great God, your love has called us here,
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed;
we come, with all one heart and mind,
your call to hear, your love to find.**

**Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own,
not through some merit, right or claim
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy-seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.**

Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.

Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

God of light:
look on us in mercy;
draw us from hatred to love;
from sorrow to feasting.
Make the frailty of our prayers
a dwelling place for your glory.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

*All are invited to gather round the altar. Should you need to sit,
please use any of the benches or seats around the altar at the
front of the church.*

While moving to the altar, please join in singing ...

**Here in this place new light is shining,
now is the darkness vanished away.**

See in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in and hold us for ever.
Gather us in and make us your own.
Gather us in all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and
Redemption in Christ ...*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...

SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS (Iona)

Singer
Holy.

All sing
Holy.

Singer
Holy.

All
Holy.
Holy Lord of power and might.

Singer
Heaven.

All
Heaven.

Singer
Earth.

All
Earth.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

(in canon) Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Singer
Blessed.

All
Blessed.

Singer
Blessed.

All
Blessed.

Is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Singer
Blessed.

All
Blessed.

Singer
Blessed.

All

Blessed.

Is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

(in canon) Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with: "...as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"

The cantor sings

Great is the mystery of faith.

All sing after the cantor

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The prayer continues ...

At the end of the prayer, sing after the cantor

**Blessing and honour,
glory and power,
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Silence is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in your own language.

The priest says

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Bread is broken and the priest says
We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says
This is the table of Christ.
It has been made ready for those who love God,
and those who want to love more.
So come; you who have much faith and you who have little.
You who have been to this sacrament often
and you who have not been for some time.
You who have tried to follow Christ and you who have failed.
Come. It is Christ who asks us to meet him here.

THE COMMUNION

*During Communion, the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars will sing **Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring**, music by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

HYMN

[Tune: Mannheim; Words: James Edmeston (1791-1867)]

Lead us, heav'ly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing ev'ry blessing
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
all our weakness thou dost know,
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

**Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heav'nly joy,
love with ev'ry passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.**

THE BLESSING

The priest says

May God give you grace to follow the light of Christ,
wherever you are led and however long the road.
And the blessing of God almighty:
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you on this day and for ever.
Amen.

The deacon says

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



DONATE ONLINE

In addition to the physical collection, if you do not have cash with you, please scan this QR code with your smartphone to make a one-off or regular donation.

Alternatively, please visit sjp.org.uk/donate, or use one of the tap donation points in the church. Donations will appear on your bank statement as 'Supported Business'.

For your prayers this week

Parish life and events

All members of our online community.

Our social outreach programmes: guests and volunteers at FEAST and Sunday Breakfast, and all involved with our International Group.

Racial Justice Sunday today.

Those who are ill

Charles, Angie, Stuart, Aaron

Recently departed

David whose memorial service is on Monday (9th February) and for Jennifer and Mark who mourn him.

Alistair whose funeral is on Tuesday (10th February) and for Helen who mourns him.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Choral Evensong at St James's, Piccadilly
TODAY - Sunday 8th February at 3pm
Officiant & Preacher: The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine



Marking Candlemas, today's Choral Evensong is shaped around the theme of light and the presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Tudor music by Tallis, Hooper, and Byrd sits alongside plainsong, psalms, and hymns that explore light, calling, and faithful service.

Ash Wednesday - 18th February
services at St James's, Piccadilly

All services include the offer of receiving a mark of ash. Ashing is also offered in the courtyard during the day.

Morning Eucharist at 8.30am

Celebrant: The Revd Lucy Winkett

Lunchtime Eucharist at 1.10pm

Celebrant & Preacher: The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease



**Evening Eucharist
at 6.30pm**
Celebrant:
The Revd Lucy Winkett
Preacher:
The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine

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